

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10580 112039Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 EUR-12 HA-05
/087 W

-----092423 121237Z /11

R 111234Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2696
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10580

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR IN US AF
SUBJECT: HINDU ARTICLE ON US OFFICIAL'S VISIT

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM MADRAS JUL 11
IS REPEATED

QUOTE
UNCLAS MADRAS 1136

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IN, US, AF
SUBJECT: HINDU ARTICLE ON U.S. OFFICIAL'S VISIT

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE TITLED: "U.S. OFFICIAL COMING
FOR TALKS ON REGIONAL SITUATION" (FROM HINDU POLITICAL CORRES-
PONDENT IN NEW DELHI) APPEARING IN JULY 11 HINDU.

BEGIN TEXT.

THE U.S. UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS,
MR. DAVID NEWSOM, IS ARRIVING IN DELHI ON TUESDAY ON A
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 10580 112039Z

TWO-DAY VISIT FOR TALKS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. MORARJI
DESAI, THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, MR. A.B. VAJPAYEE,
AND THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR. JAGAT MEHTA, ON THE
REGIONAL SITUATION WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE RECENT
EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

AS THE SENIOR-MOST CAREER DIPLOMAT IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT

WHO RANKS THIRD IN ITS HIERARCHY IN HIS CAPACITY AS UNDER SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS COVERING ALL THE TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS. MR. NEWSOM IS MAKING A QUICK SWING THROUGH THE AREA TO ACQUAINT HIMSELF WITH THE CURRENT THINKING OF COUNTRIES LIKE IRAN, INDIA, PAKISTAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND AFGHANISTAN ITSELF ON ISSUE OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE THAT ARE ALSO OF GLOBAL INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IS ATTACHING TO MR. NEWSOM'S VISIT IS EVIDENT FROM THE FACT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER WILL BE MEETING HIM JOINTLY, ALTHOUGH HE HAS NO MINISTERIAL STATUS, MAKING A MARKED DEPARTURE FROM THE NORMAL PRACTICE.

MR. NEWSOM IS ARRIVING IN DELHI AFTER DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SHAH OF IRAN AND HIS TOP ADVISERS IN TEHRAN. HE GOES TO KABUL FROM DELHI FOR TALKS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE NEW REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN, BEFORE VISITING ISLAMABAD AND JEDDAH ON HIS WAY BACK TO WASHINGTON.

SOVIET INFLUENCE

THE VISIT OF MR. NEWSOM TO THE AREA SO SOON AFTER HIS APPOINTMENT AS UNDER SECRETARY REFLECTS THE GROWING U.S. CONCERN AT WHAT IT CONSIDERS TO BE A RAPID EXTENSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE TO THE REGION. THERE ARE INDEPENDENT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 10580 112039Z

REPORTS MORE OR LESS CORROBORATING THE AMERICAN ASSERTION THAT THE NEW REVOLUTIONARY REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN IS INDUCING A LARGER NUMBER OF SOVIET ADVISERS INTO KEY BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING THE ARMED FORCES. IT HAS ALSO BEEN CONFIRMED THAT THE WEST GERMAN SPECIALISTS WHO WERE BROUGHT IN BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT TO TRAIN THE SECURITY POLICE HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY SOVIET EXPERTS.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS REACHING DELHI, THE RULING PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP) HEADED BY MR. NUR MOHAMMED TARAKKI, THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE PRESENT REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT, IS ALSO IN THE THROES OF SOME INTERNAL IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICTS IN REGARD TO THE DEGREE OF ITS OVERT DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION.

THE SO-CALLED MODERATES LED BY MR. TARAKKI AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. HAFIZULLAH AMIN, WHO HAS REPLACED THE VICE-PRESIDENT, MR. BADRAK KARMAL, AS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT MAN ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PDP, ARE SAID TO BE CLOSER TO MOSCOW THAN SOME OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU WHO HAVE BEEN QUITE CRITICAL OF THE SOVIET POLICIES IN THE PAST.

POLICY DIFFERENCES

THE WAY MR. BADRAK KARMAL HAS BEEN EASED OUT OF HIS PIVOTAL POSITION AS NO.2 MAN IN THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT AND APPOINTED AS AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FOLLOWED BY THE SUDDEN ELEVATION OF MAJOR MOHAMMED ASLAM WATANYAN AS MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN PLACE OF MR. NUR MOHAMMED NUR WHO IS BEING SENT OUT AS ENVOY TO THE UNITED STATES, CLEARLY INDICATES THAT SOME SERIOUS POLICY DIFFERENCES HAVE ARISEN AMONG THE LEADERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT. BUT THERE IS NO RELIABLE INFORMATION YET WHETHER THESE DIFFERENCES RELATE PRIMARILY TO THE NATURE OF THE NEW REGIME'S LINKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION OR EXTEND TO INTERNAL POLICIES CONCERNING THE

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 NEW DE 10580 112039Z

PACE OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION. THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES ARE WATCHING THESE DEVELOPMENTS CAREFULLY WITHOUT JUMPING TO ANY ABRUPT CONCLUSIONS.

MEANWHILE, THERE ARE REPORTS OF FRESH TENSIONS BUILDING UP BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS TWO IMMEDIATE ISLAMIC NEIGHBOURS, IRAN AND PAKISTAN. THE REVOLUTIONARY REGIME SUSPECTS THAT THESE TWO COUNTRIES ARE ACTING IN COLLUSION TO FOMENT DISAFFECTION AMONG THE RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

P.M.'S WARNING

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS WARNED "REACTIONARY GOVERNMENTS" WITHOUT NAMING THEM THT ANY ATTEMPT TO CREATE TROUBLE AGAINST THE AFGHAN REVOLUTION IN THE NAME OF ISLAM WILL BE SEVERELY DEALT WITH BY THE NEW REGIME, WITH AN IMPLIED THREAT THAT THIS IS A GAME AFGHANISTAN CAN ALSO PLAY BY FOMENTING FURTHER UNREST AMONG THE PAKHTOON AND BALUCHI TRIBES. THE AFGHAN REVOLUTIONARIES SEEM TO SUSPECT THAT PAKISTAN IS ACTING AS A PROXY OF IRAN AND INSTIGATING THE MULLAHS OF THE ITTIHAD-UL-MUSLIMEEN ACROSS THE DURAND LINE TO OPPOSE THE NEW GOVERNMENT WITH THE PLEA THAT IT WAS A PUPPET OF THE SOVIET UNION.

THE INDIAN POLICY HAS BEEN THAT, WHATEVER THE IDEOLOGICAL CHARACTER OF THE PRESENT REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN, THE VERY ATTEMPT TO DECRY ITS CLOSE TIES WITH MOSCOW AND BRAND IT AS A PROTEGE OF THE SOVIET UNION WOULD ONLY MAKE IT EVEN MORE DEPENDENT ON SOVIET SUPPORT. IT HAS BEEN URGING NOT ONLY IRAN AND PAKISTAN BUT EVEN BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES TO ADOPT A MORE TOLERANT ATTITUDE. IT WAS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WENT TO KABUL RECENTLY TO ESTABLISH HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS WITH THE LEADERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 NEW DE 10580 112039Z

THE FACT THAT INDIA WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO TAKE SUCH AN
INITIATIVE HAS BEEN GREATLY APPRECIATED BY THEM.

END TEXT. FRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE10580
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780285-0425
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780774/aaaackmj.tel
Line Count: 182
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8df3ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2051965
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HINDU ARTICLE ON US OFFICIAL'S VISIT FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI FROM MADRAS JUL 11 IS REPEATED
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, OVIP, IN, US, AF, (NEWSOM, DAVID D)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8df3ce77-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014